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INFORMATION BULLETIN

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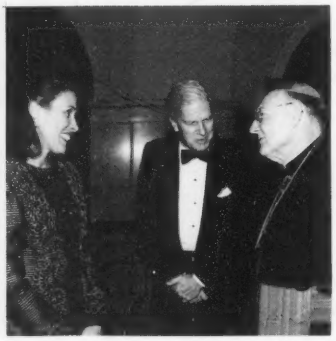
Special Issue: 'Rome Reborn' Opens at the Library

Library of Congress
INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress



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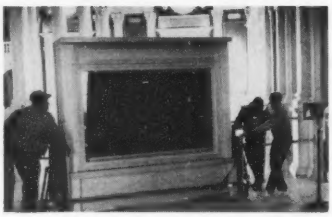

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On the Cover: The renovated Great Hall made for a "Renaissance" of an evening on Jan. 7 for dinner guests celebrating the opening of the Vatican exhibit. Guests included the Madison Council, Catholic clergy, Supreme Court justices and members of Congress. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Cover Story: Repaying a Favor: The Vatican Library expressed its gratitude to the Library of Congress on a grand scale with the opening of "Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture." 51

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly except in August (no issues published) and in December (one issue published) by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

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In concert: Music of the Baroque, under musical director Thomas Wikman, performs a "Concert of Music of the Sistine Chapel" in the splendor of the Jefferson Building's Members' Room preceding a Jan. 6 reception marking the opening of "Rome Reborn"; the concert, celebrating the feast of the Epiphany, was sponsored by the Library's Coolidge Foundation. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin;* (below) detail from Antonio Tempesta's "View of Rome," 1593

Unprecedented Exhibition

Vatican Library Loan of 200 Items Goes on View at LC

by Guy Lamolinara

The Library of Congress is one of the great libraries of the world. So too is the Vatican Library.

The two came together in early January with the opening of "Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture," a major exhibition at the Library of Congress of over 200 items.

"The Vatican Library jumped at the opportunity to have an exhibit in the Great Hall," said Father Leonard Boyle, prefect of the Vatican Library, during a Jan. 6 news conference in the hall. Restoration of the Jefferson Building's grand entrance hall to its former glory after a three-year wait (see LC *Information Bulletin,* Jan. 11, 1993) coincided with the unveiling of a collection of Vatican manuscripts as stunning as their temporary surroundings.

The Vatican exhibition is the first in a planned series of shows at LC featuring the great libraries of the world.

The Vatican loaned the materials to the Library to show its appreciation of a favor LC had done more than 60 years ago.

The exhibition, the Rev. Boyle has written, "is an attempt on the part of the Vatican Library at a distance of over 60 years to express its gratitude to all those from North America who contributed so forcefully to 'the common convenience of the learned' which is at the heart of

Photo by Jim Higgins

During a Jan. 7 black-tie dinner Dr. Billington addressed the guests, as did . . .

the Vatican Library."

From 1927 to 1939 Vatican Library staffers came to the United States to work in LC's cataloging department, and staffers from LC traveled to Italy to aid in the cataloging of the Vatican's collections.

"Most Americans are aware of the papal contribution in the realm of the visual arts—the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica and the city of Rome itself," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington during the news conference. Few, however, "understand the equally important role of the Renaissance popes as patrons of scholarship, the sciences and the life of the mind in general," he continued. "In developing the exhibition and its accompanying catalog, Declan Murphy [executive assistant to the Librarian of Congress and project director], and Anthony Grafton [chief curator and professor of the history of the Renaissance and Reformation Europe at Princeton University], hope to set the record straight on this point. They alert us to the great role of the Vatican as a key center of Western learning and intellectual ferment more than 400 years ago—and a center of learning reaching to the East as well."

Several of the reporters voiced surprise at the secular nature of most of the exhibit items. Father Boyle attributed this to the early popes' dream of building a library that embraced all fields of knowledge. "We even have a collection of autographs collected by Pope Paul VI," he said. The pope was "an avid collector of autographs, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby. . . ."

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view the manuscripts on display has even been a revelation to the Vatican's chief librarian. Said Father Boyle: "This is the best view I have ever seen" of the collections. "We can't, for example, unroll all the manuscripts," for fear of causing unnecessary wear. "All you see when you enter the Vatican Library are shelves" of materials; items are not routinely displayed, and the collection is open only to use by select scholars. Father Boyle has plans for opening the collections to a wider world (see story on page 53).

"Rome Reborn" is the third and largest exhibition of Vatican Library materials ever. In 1986, for example, a loan of materials from the Palatine Library of Heidelberg was displayed in Cologne, "a collection we purloined in 1622—so we graciously mounted an exhibition for six weeks," Father Boyle joked.

The items on display at LC were chosen not by the Vatican Library but by scholars who had been readers at the library. Had the former been true, the exhibition "would have been the dullest thing in the world," Father Boyle said as the audience laughed. "We are too used to this material. These are the things that excited [the curators].

"I have learned what is in the Vatican Library for the first time through the eyes of these scholars," the Vatican's chief librarian continued.

Dr. Grafton added that "the beauty of these manuscripts is that they are some of the great works of Renaissance art. The exhibit gives us many moments when you are face to face with the past. The only thing I can't give you, which I regret, is the smell" of the centuries-old items, which are on view behind glass for protection.

Another reporter asked Father Boyle why an institution of the Roman Catholic Church would possess love letters of the six-times-married Henry VIII. The reply: "Aren't they an expression of the human spirit? We don't even know when they got there. But they were in the Vatican Library by 1567. They were likely purloined.

"The selection of the items was left entirely to those experts sent by the Library of Congress. We didn't exhibit any censorship," Father Boyle added.

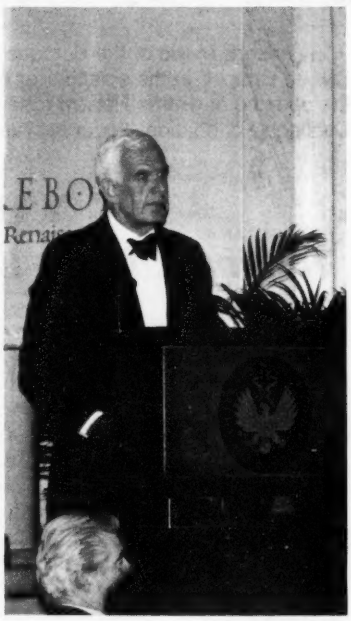


Photo by Jim Higgins

. . . Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) . . .

In his introduction to the catalog, Dr. Billington wrote: The Vatican Library's "counterintuitive acquisition policy was not accidental; it reflected the conscious determination of the Renaissance papacy to place knowledge at the service of governance. Heir to that tradition, Thomas Jefferson assigned precisely the same function to the Library of Congress in the context of American democracy. . . .

"It is therefore fully appropriate that this exhibition take place in the Library of Congress, an institution that represents the ultimate modern embodiment of an ideal that originated with the Renaissance popes."

"Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture" will remain on view through April 30. Hours are Monday–Saturday 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

The exhibition was made possible through a generous gift of John W. Kluge, president of Metromedia Co. and chairman of LC's James Madison Council, a private-sector national advisory body that fosters awareness of the Library and supports its programs. The exhibition cases are a gift of the Charles Engelhard Foundation. Additional support was provided by Jones International Ltd., Discovery Communications Inc., the John J. Medveckis Foundation, Tiffany and Co. and the United Airlines Foundation.

Photo by Jim Higgins

. . . Discovery Channel Chairman John Hendricks . . .

Making a Unique Collection Accessible Worldwide

It has the greatest collection of Western manuscripts in the world—yet few people have ever seen its contents.

The Vatican Library in 1991 issued only 2,000 reader cards. But Father Leonard Boyle, prefect, or chief librarian, of the institution, dreams of making its collections—and the beauty and knowledge contained therein—accessible to all.

"Although [the project] is a long way down the road," Father Boyle said during a Jan. 6 news conference at the Library, "and very expensive, at least it is being attempted."

The project was proposed by the Vatican Library, the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and International Business Machines Corp. According to a brochure, "Vatican Library Accessible Worldwide," the aim of the project is to make selected contents of the Library available electronically on computers throughout the world.

The latest in imaging technology makes this possible. Father Boyle hopes that one day, getting access to the Vatican collections will be akin to "writing for a microfilm and you get it two weeks later."

The first step in the project will be to electronically scan and replicate selected materials from the library's earliest manuscripts, printed books and catalog inventories. About 1.5 million pages could be processed during the first three years. A scanning facility at the library would make continued scanning possible.

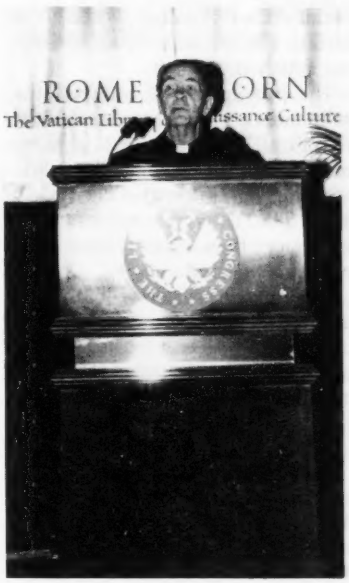


Photo by Yusef El-Amin

. . . and guest of honor Father Leonard Boyle.

Two organizations will seek funding for the project, expected to cost $8 million to $9 million during the first three years alone: American Friends of the Vatican Library and the Americas' Fund for Independent Universities (AFIU). One of AFIU's founding institutions is Pontifical Catholic University. IBM will contribute $1 million to the effort.

According to a representative from Pontifical Catholic, who attended the news conference, "imaging will allow you to see things you could not see simply by actually viewing a manuscript." Added Lois Maxwell Jackson of IBM Latin America: "Things can be enlarged for greater detail; you can also see how the artist changed his mind"

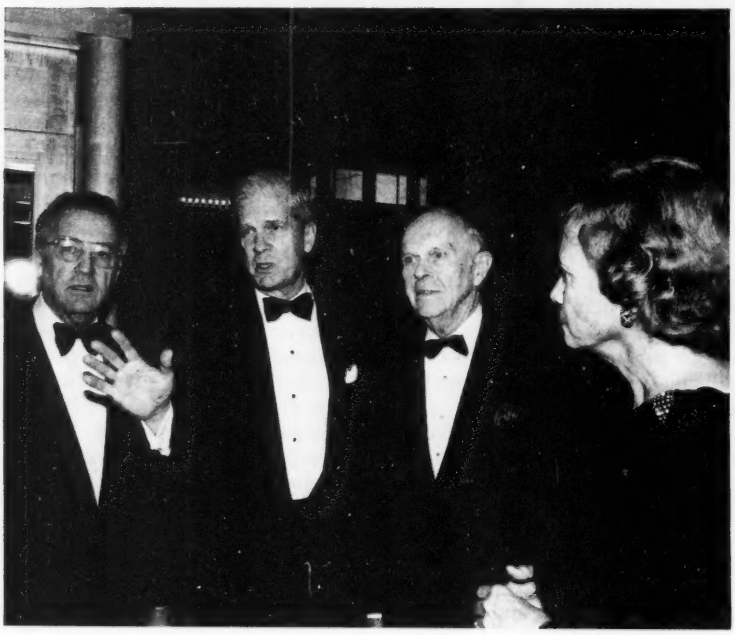
because the technology would allow a viewer to see what is underneath the finished product.

The possibilities of access to the collections are almost endless. At the Pontifical University local and remote scholars could view the collections through Internet, a network of about 5,000 networks in 33 countries with more than a half-million computers connected.

Father Boyle's vision of sharing his library's "catholicity of spirit, lower case 'c'," with all is at the heart of the papal spirit that founded this great treasure trove of humanism.

—Guy Lamolinara

For further information about this project, contact: Francis Blouin of American Friends of the Vatican Library at (313) 764-3482 or Alice Lentz of Americas' Fund for Independent Universities at (704) 295-4187. For information about image system technology, contact Steve Cutignola at (914) 288-3464.



Pictures from an exhibition (lower left): Dr. Billington points out some of the highlights of "Rome Reborn" during the Jan. 7 reception to (from left) Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.); Edwin Cox, chairman of the Madison Council's Steering Committee; and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; (above) John Kluge (second from left), chairman of the Madison Council, greets other guests at the affair; (opposite page, from top) Dr. Billington greets Marilyn Quayle and Cardinal Cassidy of Vatican City; Declan Murphy, the exhibition's project director, explains the significance of some of the items in the "Archaeology" section to Louis Sullivan, secretary of health and human services during the Bush administration, and his wife; Daniel Mulhollan, acting Deputy Librarian of Congress, and some of the attending clergy enjoy Pierro Ligorio's rendering of the ancient city of Rome in a 1773 reprint. *Photos by Jim Higgins and Yusef El-Amin*

Vatican Prefect Speaks About 'Interlibrary Loan'

On Jan. 8, Father Leonard Boyle, Dominican priest and prefect of the Vatican Library, took a large group of visitors in the Members' Room in the Jefferson Building on a "tour" of the Vatican Library.

Equipped with an impressive collection of color slides, quips and anecdotes, Father Boyle drew on nine years of experience as caretaker and former patron of the Vatican's vast archival treasures, to trace the library's origins and history.

This event was the first in a series of lectures on Renaissance culture sponsored by Catholic University of America and the Library of Congress, with a generous grant from Leo A. Daly.

Father Boyle began by describing the current exhibition of items from the Vatican Library in the Jefferson Building's Great Hall, "Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture," as an "interlibrary loan."

"I get calls from international journals and organizations all the time asking, 'Do you loan items from the library?' 'No!' I tell them, and yet, here we are, loaning out half the library!

"This exhibition offers a representative look at every class and category of the Vatican collection," he added. "The holdings are so diverse, before I arrived here on Monday, I'd never seen all of these items together."

The prefect displayed detailed views and traced the history of various locations and features of the library; among them, the Palace of Nicholas V, the Borgia Tower, the Tower of the Winds, the Archives and the Belvedere Courtyard, which is cut in two by the library (a decision, made by Pope Sixtus V, that architects then and since have denounced vigorously, according to Father Boyle).

"In his five years as pope, Sixtus V cleaned up Rome, hanging all the bandits from bridges and devising the small town plan that exists today—although those visiting Rome may not think there is a town plan."

He also described the personalities and goals of those who established a library which, as Nicholas V, the Vatican Library's founder, wrote in 1451, was built "for the common convenience of the learned."

"Nicholas V was an undistinguished bloke before he became pope in 1447," Father Boyle said matter of factly. "But he was enamored of Greek and Latin, and upon his death in 1555, left behind 1,100 codices in Greek and Latin."

In describing the next pope to continue establishing an impressive but widely available library collection, Father Boyle pointed out that Pope Sixtus IV (1471–1484) appropriated much of the language his predecessor used to describe the library's mission and even went so far as to embellish Nicholas V's coat of arms "stemma" with his own oak leaf scroll work. Sixtus IV also installed Bartolomeo Platina as the library's first prefect. He added several more staff and refurbished and increased the library's space by adding a room, endowments and administrative offices.

Sixtus V continued in this vein, increasing the library's collection of archives from a variety of secular sources and expanding its confines. But he also exercised a strong hand in matters outside the Vatican Library.

"In his five years as pope, Sixtus V [1585–1590] cleaned up Rome, hanging all of the bandits from bridges and devising the same town plan that exists today—although those visiting Rome may not think there *is* a town plan," he added with a grin.

In describing the library that Sixtus V constructed to the north of the Belvedere Courtyard (and, though changed, is still in use today), Father Boyle pointed to a slide showing a series of paintings, referring to them as "scenes from my life—that of Sixtus V."

"He was impatient and hard working, didn't stand fools," the prefect explained. "His motto [loosely translated] was, "impatience toward inanity." That will be my motto when I become pope," he added, to a room full of approving laughter.

Throughout his "tour," Father Boyle pointed out many examples of beautiful artwork gracing the library's walls and ceiling along with treasures purchased from their owners or relinquished by unfortunates plagued by war or death.

One of the lower register paintings in the Salone Sostino (Sixtus V's 40-seat reading room), for example, depicts Sixtus V's coronation procession. Four figures seated "uneasily" on their horses are visiting Japanese princes who, Father Boyle explained, "arrived and were made *cavalieri* that very morning." This painting represents the first recorded presence of Japanese in Europe, who traveled from Spain to Venice and then Rome. Japanese tourists are disappointed to learn the silk screen the princes presented to Sixtus V in 1590 was lost in the intervening years and has never been found.

Fascinating bits of trivia and unique discoveries abound throughout the library. The policy of storing books in cupboards, with paths or fire lanes between them to keep fires from spreading, was introduced at the Vatican Library. The collection includes many unique items, such as a 1,600-page Bible written on parchment made of antelope skin and the great codices of Virgil and Latin collections belonging to bishops who, if they died while traveling to or from Rome, automatically "bequeathed" their possessions—called "spoils" to the Vatican.

Then there were the spoils of Heidelberg. Thousands of books and manuscripts that formed the basis of the Palatine Library were donated to the Vatican Library by Maximilian of Bavaria after he captured the Protestant stronghold in 1622.

"Heidelberg makes noises about that, but mostly affectionate ones," Father Boyle remarked. "In 1986 we sent 286 manuscripts there for a short time on loan; they all came back safely. In retrospect, it's fortunate that they wound up in Rome when they did. In 1693 the French burned the Church housing much of the Palatine collection; if kept there, it might all have been lost. Unfortunately, we've learned that the other half, in Romania, is missing and may have been destroyed."

After describing these and many other treasures in the Vatican's vast collection, Father Boyle reflected on the many changes in the library since its early days, before the advent of card catalogs, personal computers and other forms of emerging technology that one day will allow patrons all over the world to access the library's archives from their homes or offices (story on page 53). The library has come a long way in less than 70 years.

"As late as 1926, people came from the United States looking for books.

They were told, 'There's no card catalog at the Vatican Library but, don't worry, the people there know what's in it,'" Father Boyle recalled.

Thanks to the generosity of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and expertise offered by the Library of Congress and the University of Michigan, Vatican Library staff traveled to the United States in 1927 to study library science and work in the Library of Congress's cataloging department, where they also helped to refine the Library's classification of theology. A team of cataloging experts then traveled to the Vatican to show the library's staff how to catalog their collection of printed books. The Library of Congress began providing a duplicate set of printed cataloging cards on Vatican titles, modified to reflect Italian titles and subheadings, a practice that continues today albeit in automated form. At this time, the reading rooms were renovated, the level of lighting was improved and a new entrance was opened.

Father Boyle also pointed out that many among the staff were suspicious of the project. They were uncomfortable with the fact that printed books, as opposed to manuscripts, were receiving so much attention.

"Not everyone welcomed the advent of the card catalog," Father Boyle recalled. "Many opposed it and referred [disparagingly] to Eugene Tisserant, scriptore and later joint prefect, as 'L'Americano.' But things change, and today everyone is so proud of the card catalog they've forgotten where it came from," he joked.

"When the opportunity arose to thank the Library of Congress for its contributions, I jumped at it," Father Boyle said. "This exhibition is an act of thanks, long overdue, to everyone in North America who has helped the Vatican Library to fully document the collection and make it more available to visitors from all over the world."

—*Barbara Bryant*

On United States-Vatican Relations:
LC Hosts U.S. Ambassador to Holy See

Thomas Patrick Melady, who has served as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, Vatican City, since 1989, visited the Library of Congress on Jan. 6 to deliver an address on the history of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the Holy See.

Ambassador Melady's arrival heralded the opening of the Vatican Library exhibition that he, and his predecessor, Frank Shakespeare, helped to negotiate.

Ambassador Thomas Melady gave an address at LC Jan. 6. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Dr. Melady's current appointment caps an impressive career of scholarly and diplomatic achievements. In addition to his M.A. and Ph.D. from Catholic University of America, he was awarded honorary doctorates from 25 universities, served as president of the Africa Service Institute in 1959–67 and has held numerous professorships in political science and international affairs.

Ambassador Melady began his address by noting that Jan. 10, 1993, marked the ninth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See. This date represents the first time a U.S. president appointed an official ambassador to Vatican City.

The United States' ties to the Vatican began in 1797 when America officially recognized the papal states' control over central Italy by establishing a consular office in Vatican City. In 1826 the Vatican reciprocated by setting up a similar office in New York City.

Since then, U.S. presidents have appointed, intermittently, many officials to a variety of diplomatic posts ranging from chargé d'affaires to personal representatives of the president. However, none of these emissaries served as official ambassadors, appointments that would indicate formal acknowledgment of the Vatican as an independent sovereign state worthy of full diplomatic ties.

Dr. Melady identifies three reasons for this uneven—some would

say, rocky–diplomatic history.

"The first factor was this country's failure to understand or cede recognition of the pope's sovereignity over the Catholic faithful worldwide," the ambassador explained. "Others expressed concern that recognition of the pope might represent a violation of the constitutional provision of separation between church and state. The existence of recurrent, often strong anti-Catholic sentiment in the U.S. also influenced many leaders' decisions not to accord the Vatican official recognition," he added.

It was not until Jan. 10, 1984, that President Reagan appointed an official U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, a gesture that signaled the government's recognition of the worldwide ministry of the pope.

"This act is important," Dr. Melady argued, "because it places the papal states firmly in the community of nations; a status that is officially recognized by 142 countries, a number which will soon rise to 145."

In addition to his current post, Dr. Melady has served as senior adviser to the U.S. delegation to the 25th United Nations General Assembly and was knighted by Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II. He has written 11 books, including *Idi Amin Dada: Hitler in Africa,* and has received many international honors.

The ambassador also discussed the ways in which the Holy See has attempted to influence worldwide events. He cited the papacy's four basic priorities as: defense of human rights, exercise of religious freedom, political pluralism and humanitarian affairs. He admitted that the Holy See and the United States have not always agreed on issues of foreign policy–the wars in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf are two examples of "a lack of convergence and paralellism," as he put it. But he insisted that the two countries have "converged" on a number of international issues, such as encouraging Poland's effort to free itself of totalitarianism and the current humanitarian effort in Somalia.

Dr. Melady also pointed out that leaders from the United States and other countries have recently consulted with and even sought closer ties to the Vatican. He offered as an example, Mikhail Gorbachev's request for an audience with the pope in 1989, which led to the appointment of a Soviet representative to the Holy See. In 1991 Russian President Boris Yeltsin made an official visit to Vatican City as well.

Such diplomatic exchanges stand in sharp contrast to Moscow's reaction to the Vatican's vocal concern over the plan to put Eastern Europe under communist rule in 1944. Upon hearing of the pope's objections, Stalin responded, "How many divisions does he have? . . ."

Today, according to Dr. Melady, few would deny that the strong Catholic presence throughout the former Soviet Union and the pope's call for increased political freedom and human rights drew attention to the plight of the oppressed. The pope's influence has not ended there.

"The Vatican has focused on freedom and human rights issues in Central America, Indonesia, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Zaire, Liberia, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon and elsewhere," Dr. Melady declared. "The Vatican's involvement in negotiations in Mozambique helped to end a war in which over 700,000 lives were lost.

"As we look at the changes in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere in the world, we realize that an old world order has come to an end," he continued. "A new world demands a new order based on mutual concern for human rights throughout the world. Together, through increased communication and shared strategies, the United States and the Holy See can work together to advance these goals throughout the world."

–Barbara Bryant

A Case Study: *State-of-the-Art Craftsmanship*

Since Jan. 8, the "Rome Reborn" exhibition has brought thousands of visitors to admire this unique collection of rare books, manuscripts and maps from the Vatican Library's archives, as well as its setting–the newly renovated Great Hall.

However, as guests move among the more than 40 cases cases that protect these Renaisannce treasures, most will never notice or learn about one of the exhibition's more subtle works of art: the cases themselves.

Equipped with a variety of climate-control, safety and specialized lighting features, these display cases represent a yearlong design and installation project involving architects, conservators, security experts and installation professionals.

The Library hired Franklin Street Communications to coordinate various teams of experts to work on the project; the firm designed the cases in association with designer Keith McPeters of Michael Graves Architects in Princeton, N.J., and called in Exhibits Unlimited in Richmond, Va., to construct and install them. Franklin Street also was responsible for the typography used on such things as banners. Chapman Ducibelle, a security engineering firm, and conservation consultant Shelley Paine were consultants to the design-installation team. The cases are a gift from the Charles Engelhard Foundation.

"It was a challenging project," Mr. McPeters recalled. "The Library wanted the final product that would be built to serve not just as display cases but as modular furniture, to be moved around at will. The finished product had to do justice to their magnificent surroundings and the Vatican artifacts, but without distracting visitors' attention from the items themselves."

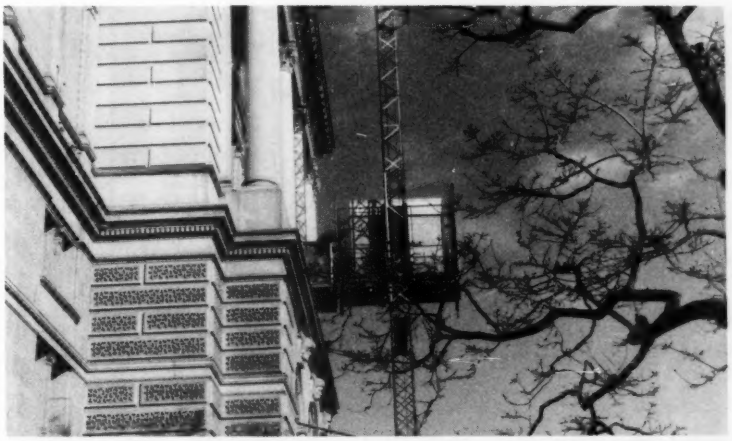
But the challenge did not end there. Those involved had to design the cases without seeing any of the Vatican treasures that would arrive from Rome only a few weeks before the exhibition opened. Instead, they relied on photos, descriptions and reported measurements of the collection—which ranged from small books to huge maps—to estimate specifications for each case.

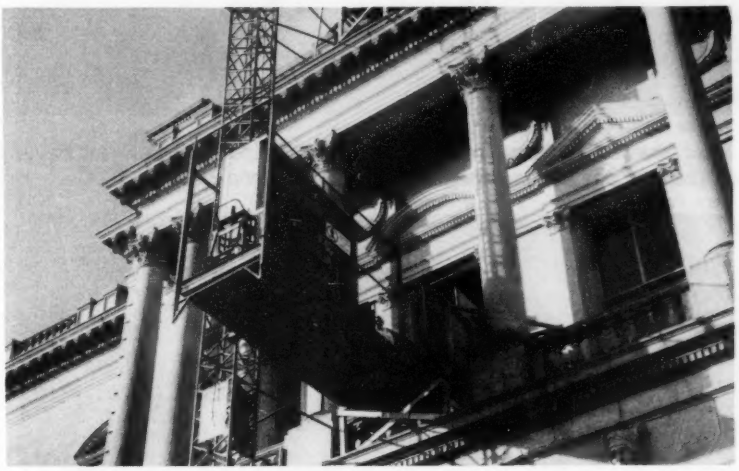
The results are impressive. Constructed of high-density fiberboard with poplar framework, the outside of the cases are curly maple in a combination of hardwoods and veneer finished in solid curly maple at the edges and corners.

To protect the artifacts from environmental hazard, the installers covered the interior with liquid sealant followed by special aluminum foil to prevent outgassing (vapors escaping from the wood that could harm the fragile collection). The cases are climate-controlled, and the base has shelves filled with five pounds of silica gel to keep the interior humidity at about 55 percent. Five pounds of charcoal filter the air. (The cases were constructed to prevent any exposure to outside air.)

The treasures are protected by thick double walls, one-half-inch-thick glass and a security system that includes noise and motion detectors and a central alarm system connected with wires to each case. Exhaust fans were installed at the top to prevent heat buildup, and each has adjustable track lighting. The off-white panels framed by the wood above the glass are thin sheets of onyx marble.

The largest cases are 8 feet by 8 feet and weigh more than a half ton, making it impossible to fit them





Fenestrated feat: Getting the cases into the Jefferson Building was a major chore; a hydraulic lift (top and middle) raises a case up to the second floor of the building; once inside a ramp is used to roll the case . . .

. . . Down to the floor (above), where it is rolled to the Southwest Pavilion (below), site of the exhibition. *Photos by Gene Roberts*

through the doorways of the Jefferson Building. Instead, installers used a hydraulic lift to hoist them up the outside of the building and through windows on the second floor.

"There were a lot of logistical difficulties to deal with," admitted John Crank, owner of Franklin Street Communications. "But what could have been the project from hell turned out to be the project from heaven, thanks in large part to the assistance and professionalism of the Library of Congress personnel who worked with us throughout.

"Along with working together right from the beginning with our own security and conservation consultants—which is rare; usually they're brought in at the end of a job, which can result in changes and headaches—we had outstanding help and expertise from Protective Services, the Conservation Office, Interpretive Programs, and Declan Murphy [project director], and Elizabeth Wulkan [project coordinator], who helped smooth out a lot of wrinkles along the way. The Library administration gave us a lot of freedom in getting the job done, and it was a pleasure to work on the project."

"It was a very exciting project," Mr. McPeters agreed. "Exhibition design is like theater. Once you put it all together you have 'dress rehearsal.'

"In this case it was very much like a dress rehearsal since we had to wait until the last minute to actually place the items in their cases and see if our measurements—and expectations—anticipated the final result. Then you have 'opening night.'"

Designed to serve not merely as exhibition equipment but as movable furniture, the cases may be kept in the Great Hall after the Vatican exhibition closes and reconfigured and adapted for other displays to come. They are proof of the importance the Library attaches to this extraordinary exhibition and represent a unique combination of specialized design, technology and craftsmanship that may preserve and complement other exhibitions in the future.

—Barbara Bryant

Other Exhibitions on View at the Library

☐ **"Forum Magazine Illustrations."** This exhibit is on view in the Oval Gallery, sixth floor of the Madison Building, through April 11, and features 35 illustrations from *The Forum*, a magazine of political and social commentary published during the turbulent 1920s. Call (202) 707-5223.

☐ **"By Securing to Authors: Copyright, Commerce and Creativity in America.** The exhibition features a wide range of items continually copyrighted in America. The items are on display to the public along the fourth floor corridors, Madison Building, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays only.

☐ **21st Employee Arts and Crafts Exhibition.** The exhibition is on view on the sixth floor, blue corridor, Madison Building. The popular display, organized by the Library of Congress Professional Association, annually recognizes original art submitted by talented current and retired Library staff members and employees of the Architect of the capitol who work for the Library. Included are photographs, paintings, woodwork, needlework and pottery. The exhibition will be on display through Feb. 22.

☐ **"An Ethnic at Large: Jerre Mangione and the Federal Writers' Project, 1935-1942."** Jerre Mangione, as coordinating editor for the WPA's Federal Writers' Project, was largely responsible for publishing hundreds of works on American life that have since become rare collector's items and classics. He is author of the recently released *La Storia: Five Centuries of the Italian American Experience.* Among the 45 exhibit items are a number of Mr. Mangione's other books, photographs, and manuscript material. The exhibition is in the Mumford Foyer, sixth floor, Madison Building, through April 18. Call (202) 707-5223.

☐ **"'I Do Solemnly Swear . . .': Presidential Inaugurations, 1789-1993."** The exhibition surveys inaugurations from George Washington's to Bill Clinton's. Using manuscripts, photos, memorabilia, sheet music, maps and prints, the exhibition emphasizes the uniqueness of American inaugurals in world history and their extraordinary continuity over 200 years. The exhibition is in the Madison Foyer, first floor, Madison Building, through Feb. 21, 1993. Call (202) 707-5223.

Map of the Horn of Africa showing Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia.

☐ **"Landsat: Monitoring Earth's Environment."** The Library's Geography and Map Division has opened this select display along the corridor by the division's main entrance, B-Level, Madison Building. The exhibition contains 40 satellite images of Earth that commemorate the 20th anniversary of the American Landsat program. The computer-generated images on display provide scientists with unique data for terrain analysis, crop assessment, mineral exploration, disaster assessment and relief, habitat preservation, forestry management and archaeological investigations. In evidence are a number of images of such specific areas as the northeast shore of the Caspian Sea and the Los Angeles metropolitan area. In addition the exhibition contains maps and views that trace the progression of man's early efforts to view Earth from above. The exhibition will be on view through June 20. Call (202) 707-8530.

☐ **"Operation Restore Hope"** is a small display of maps related to the current crisis in Somalia. Current Events Gallery, Madison Building, to run indefinitely.

Exhibition hours: The Madison Gallery, Madison Foyer and Current Events Gallery exhibition areas are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. All other exhibition areas are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

For additional information on visiting the Library, call (202) 707-8000.

NOTE: The C Street door of the Madison Building closes to the public after 5 p.m. weekdays.

LC News Service Available On-Line

As previously reported in the Oct. 5 issue, on an experimental basis, the Library of Congress is now making available an on-line news service. The Library of Congress News Service is a new source for information about the Library—its programs, exhibits, activities, hours of operation and job openings.

The News Service will also enable users to get edited versions of stories and announcements from the LC *Information Bulletin* approximately two weeks before they appear in print.

The News Service, will **not,** however, provide access to the Library's bibliographic data bases, nor will other Library services be available through the News Service.

The service is available free of charge to anyone having a personal computer and modem. The telephone number for accessing the service 24 hours a day is (202) 707-3854.

The News Service will offer several menus, including:

☐ PRES—Items of interest to the media, such as upcoming conferences, exhibit openings, major acquisitions and other announcements.

☐ LIBR—Information of particular interest to librarians, such as availability of Cataloging Distribution Service products, news from Collections Services, new LC publications, changes in LC procedures in cataloging and other areas.

☐ PUBL—News for the public such as exhibit openings and features on the Library.

☐ CALD—A calendar of events.

☐ ACES—Access to the Library. Where to locate entrances, hours of operation.

☐ JOBS—Current openings at the Library of Congress.

For more information or a brochure on the service, call Guy Lamolinara, Editor, LC News Service, at (202) 707-9217 or write Library of Congress Public Affairs Office, Washington, DC 20540-8610.

Children's Literature Center, Kennedy Center Sponsor 'Dragonwings'

On Oct. 26 LC's Children's Literature Center and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Education Department sponsored a special performance of Laurence Yep's play "Dragonwings," adapted by the playwright from his novel (HarperCollins, 1967) of the same name, which won the 1976 Newbery Honor. The play, held in the Theater Lab, was part of the Kennedy Center's educational programs geared to young people and was commissioned by the Berkeley Repertory Theater and produced by the Lincoln Center Institute and Kennedy Center under the direction of Phyllis K. Look.

Following the performance, David R. Humphrey, deputy director of education at the Kennedy Center, thanked the cast for its fine performance; Sybille A. Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center, introduced playwright Laurence Yep, who spoke of coming to terms with his Chinese-American identity through the writing of "Dragonwings" 17 years ago. The idea for the book came from an article in the *San Francisco Examiner* of Sept. 23, 1909.

Attending the Oct. 26 performance were (from left): June Dunbar, producer, Lincoln Center Institute; author Laurence Yep; Sybille Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center; and David Humphrey, Kennedy Center deputy director of education. *Photo by Carol Pratt*

The play tells the story of a young Chinese boy, Moonshadow, who joins his inventor father in San Francisco's Chinatown in the early 1900s. The narrow world of the laundry, the family dominated by a conservative uncle and the brutal experiences with prejudice are unable to destroy Moonshadow's father's belief that he is a dragon in human guise (knowledge revealed to him by the dragon king in a dream) and will succeed in building and flying an airplane. The simplicity of the set showing a box-kite and the elusive face of a dragon subtly suggested in a cloud, the sound of drums, the flying colors of the Chinese dragon and the energetic, stylized movements of the cast effectively evoked time and place.

The story was about a Chinese-American inventor who had been the first on the West Coast to build and fly an airplane.

"The story leaped out at me," Mr. Yep said, recalling his awe for this Chinese immigrant who had "dreamed on a spectacular scale."

A reception and autographing followed the performance for an audience of some 350 teachers, librarians and children's book enthusiasts who had come from as far as Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and South Carolina to meet the author and cast.

—*Gabriele Sass*

PUBLICATIONS

LC Releases Report on Russian Archives Exhibition

The Library of Congress has just published a report based on "Revelations from the Russian Archives," an exhibition of previously secret Soviet documents on display at the Library from June 17 to July 16, 1992.

The exhibition contained approximately 300 Soviet documents, photographs and films that shed new light on many 20th century events from the Russian Revolution to recent times. A team of scholars led by James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, and Rudolph G. Pikhoia, chairman of the Committee on Archival Affairs of the Russian Federation, selected items from the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the Foreign Ministry and other official sources. This new report on the exhibition, *Revelations from the Russian Archives: A Report from the Library of Congress*, contains translated text of correspondence, official documents and photographs from the exhibition and scholarly discussion of their history and significance. Like the exhibition, this report offers new insight into such topics as Stalin's reign of terror, the Gulag system, censorship, the workings of the secret police, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, the Soviet and American Communist parties and the Cuban missile crisis.

Most notably the report contains edited transcripts of the high-level symposium proceedings that accompanied the opening of the exhibition. Dr. Billington convened a panel of distinguished historians and guests to discuss the impact of the newly released Soviet documents. Dr. Pikhoia joined Dimitrii Volkogonov, senior military adviser to Russian President Yeltsin; Robert Tucker, professor of politics emeritus of Princeton University and Stalin biographer; Ambassador Paul Nitze, formerly director of the U.S. State Department Policy Planning Staff and a prime mover in arms negotiations with the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s; and Deputy Secretary of Defense Adam Ulam, professor of political science and director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University, to discuss the significance of the documents and their importance in helping the world understand and learn from recent Russian history.

New from National Library Service For Blind and Physically Handicapped

Parents' Guide to the Development of Preschool Children with Disabilities: Resources and Services (Reference circular 92-1, May 1992) lists a wide range of information to assist parents in promoting the development of their child from infancy to age five. In regular print and on disc.

Two new brochures in large print are now available. *Books Are Fun for Everyone* describes books and services available through NLS to blind and physically handicapped children. *La Lectura Es para Todos* contains general information in Spanish on the NLS program.

MEETING

CNLIA Semiannual Meeting

The Council of National Library and Information Associations (CNLIA) held its semiannual meeting at the 60 East Club in New York on Dec. 4. Over the past year the council has been making a survey of convention and conference practices by its 19 constituent member associations. This should be of help to organizations planning such meetings, as the pooled experience of large and small associations will help in their programming in this extremely complex and sometimes quite expensive activity. CNLIA likewise maintains a calendar of forthcoming meetings of library and information associations.

This year the council observes its 50th anniversary. For this occasion a draft history of the organization was distributed. It included a letter of congratulation from President Bush and an insert in the Congressional Record to mark the jubilee. Through its initiative, *The Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information* has been published since 1955. From 1951 through the 1970s CNLIA served as secretariat of the American Standards Institute Standards Committee Z39 on Library Work, Documentation and Related Published Practices. It has been succeeded by the independent National Information Standards Organization (NISO). The best-known standards are the ISBN and ISSN standards used throughout the world. Another important activity in which the council was involved was the Universal Serials and Book Exchange (USBE, originally United States Book Exchange), founded in 1948 and existing until a few years ago. Over the years it helped distribute millions of hard-to-find books and issues of serials on an exchange basis in the United States and abroad.

The program, "The Smart Library: The Electronic Library of the Future," was presented by Richard Sweeney, dean of libraries and information services at the Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, N.Y. The rapid advance of the technologies that affect library services will transform the relationship between librarian and user, he said. The professional must keep abreast of the changes that burst upon the scene with bewildering speed.

The chair for the coming year is Kathleen Haefliger of the Music Library Association. This writer attended as councilor for the Association of Jewish Libraries.

—Theodore Wiener

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